

ORDER NO. 737

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20268-0001

Before Commissioners:

Ruth Y. Goldway, Chairman;  
Mark Acton, Vice Chairman;  
Dan G. Blair;  
Tony L. Hammond; and  
Nanci E. Langley

Valley Falls Station  
Cumberland, Rhode Island 02864

Docket No. A2011-18

NOTICE AND ORDER ACCEPTING APPEAL AND  
ESTABLISHING PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

(Issued May 25, 2011)

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 404(d), on May 23, 2011, the Commission received a petition for review of the Postal Service's determination to close the Valley Falls Station in Cumberland, Rhode Island. The petition was filed online by Derrick Watson on behalf of the Concerned Citizens of Valley Falls - Save Our Post Office (Petitioner). The Commission hereby institutes a proceeding under 39 U.S.C. 404(d)(5) and establishes Docket No. A2011-18 to consider Petitioner's appeal. If Petitioner would like to further explain its position with supplemental information or facts, Petitioner may either file a Participant Statement on PRC Form 61 or file a brief with the Commission no later than June 27, 2011.

*Categories of issues apparently raised.* Petitioner raises several issues regarding the closing. The categories of issues raised include: failure to follow the post

office closure requirements (see 39 U.S.C. 404(d)(1)); and failure to consider effect on the community (see 39 U.S.C. 404(d)(2)(A)(i)).

After the Postal Service files the administrative record and the Commission reviews it, the Commission may find that there are more legal issues than those set forth above, or that the Postal Service's determination disposes of one or more of those issues. The deadline for the Postal Service to file the administrative record with the Commission is June 7, 2011. See 39 CFR 3001.113. In addition, the due date for any responsive pleading by the Postal Service to this Notice is June 7, 2011.

*Availability; website posting.* The Commission has posted the appeal and supporting material on its website at <http://www.prc.gov>. Additional filings in this case and participants' submissions also will be posted on the Commission's website, if provided in electronic format or amenable to conversion, and not subject to a valid protective order. Information on how to use the Commission's website is available online or by contacting the Commission's webmaster via telephone at 202-789-6873 or via electronic mail at [prc-webmaster@prc.gov](mailto:prc-webmaster@prc.gov).

The appeal and all related documents also are available for public inspection in the Commission's docket section. Docket section hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal government holidays. Docket section personnel may be contacted via electronic mail at [prc-dockets@prc.gov](mailto:prc-dockets@prc.gov) or via telephone at 202-789-6846.

*Filing of documents.* All filings of documents in this case shall be made using the Internet (Filing Online) pursuant to Commission rules 9(a) and 10(a) at the Commission's website, <http://www.prc.gov>, unless a waiver is obtained. See 39 CFR 3001.9(a) and 3001.10(a). Instructions for obtaining an account to file documents online may be found on the Commission's website or by contacting the Commission's docket section at [prc-dockets@prc.gov](mailto:prc-dockets@prc.gov) or via telephone at 202-789-6846.

The Commission reserves the right to redact personal information which may infringe on an individual's privacy rights from documents filed in this proceeding.

*Intervention.* Those, other than the Petitioner and respondent, wishing to be heard in this matter are directed to file a notice of intervention. See 39 CFR 3001.111(b). Notices of intervention in this case are to be filed on or before June 20, 2011. A notice of intervention shall be filed using the Internet (Filing Online) at the Commission's website unless a waiver is obtained for hardcopy filing. See 39 CFR 3001.9(a) and 3001.10(a).

*Further procedures.* By statute, the Commission is required to issue its decision within 120 days from the date it receives the appeal. See 39 U.S.C. 404(d)(5). A procedural schedule has been developed to accommodate this statutory deadline. In the interest of expedition, in light of the 120-day decision schedule, the Commission may request the Postal Service or other participants to submit information or memoranda of law on any appropriate issue. As required by the Commission rules, if any motions are filed, responses are due 7 days after any such motion is filed. See 39 CFR 3001.21.

*It is ordered:*

1. The Postal Service shall file the administrative record regarding this appeal no later than June 7, 2011.
2. Any responsive pleading by the Postal Service to this Notice is due no later than June 7, 2011.
3. The procedural schedule listed below is hereby adopted.

4. Pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 505, Richard A. Oliver is designated officer of the Commission (Public Representative) to represent the interests of the general public.
5. The Secretary shall arrange for publication of this Notice and Order in the *Federal Register*.

By the Commission.

Shoshana M. Grove  
Secretary

## PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

May 23, 2011	Filing of Appeal
June 7, 2011	Deadline for the Postal Service to file the administrative record in this appeal
June 7, 2011	Deadline for the Postal Service to file any responsive pleading
June 20, 2011	Deadline for notices to intervene (see 39 CFR 3001.111(b))
June 27, 2011	Deadline for Petitioner's Form 61 or initial brief in support of the petition (see 39 CFR 3001.115(a) and (b))
July 18, 2011	Deadline for answering brief in support of the Postal Service (see 39 CFR 3001.115(c))
August 2, 2011	Deadline for reply briefs in response to answering briefs (see 39 CFR 3001.115(d))
August 9, 2011	Deadline for motions by any party requesting oral argument; the Commission will schedule oral argument only when it is a necessary addition to the written filings (see 39 CFR 3001.116)
September 20, 2011	Expiration of the Commission's 120-day decisional schedule (see 39 U.S.C. 404(d)(5))